

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-09 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /045 W

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R 231744Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8762

INFO AMCONSUL ORAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 10364

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, FR, AG

SUBJECT: GUY DE COMMINES DE MARSILLY, NEW FRENCH

AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA

1. COMMINES, 54 YEARS OLD, HAS JUST BEEN NAMED AS AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA' REPLACING JEAN-MARIE SOUTOU, NEWLY-APPOINTED FRENCH REPRESENTATIVE TO THE EEC. COMMINES HAS THE CLASSIC BACKGROUND OF A SUCCESSFUL FRENCH DIPLOMAT, AS A GRADUATE OF THE FACULTY OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND OF THE ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION (ENA), AS THE SON OF A FORMER DIPLOMAT, AND AS THE WIDOWER OF MAURICE COUVE DE MURVILLE'S NIECE.

2. HE BEGAN HIS POLITICAL CAREER AT THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN VIENNA FROM 1951 TO 1956, FOLLOWED BY AN ASSIGNMENT IN RABAT UNTIL 1958. HE THEN SPENT A YEAR AT THE QUAI D'ORSAY BEFORE TRANSFER TO THE WASHINGTON EMBASSY AS FIRST SECRETARY, THEN SECOND COUNSELOR. NAMED AMBASSADOR TO CHAD IN 1963, HE REMAINED THERE UNTIL HIS ASSIGNMENT IN 1968 AS MINISTER-COUNSELOR IN BONN. IN 1971 HE RETURNED TO THE QUAI AS HEAD OF THE NORTH AFRICA AND LEVANT DEPARTMENT, A POST HE HELD UNTIL HIS CURRENT ASSIGNMENT. COMMINES, DESPITE HIS BIRTH INTO AN OLD AND ARISTOCRATIC FRENCH FAMILY, ACQUIRED THE

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REPUTATION IN WASHINGTON AND ELSEWHERE AS AN EASY-

GOING AND INFORMAL DIPLOMAT. OPINION DIFFERS CONSIDERING  
HIS JUDGMENT, WHICH IS RESPECTED BY SOME AND  
CRITICIZED BY OTHERS. BOTH ISRAELIS AND ARABS  
APPEAR TO HAVE RESPECTED HIS IMPARTIALITY DURING HIS  
TENURE AS HEAD OF QUAI MIDEAST AFFAIRS. HE HAS MADE A  
WIDE CIRCLE OF FRIENDS WHEREVER HE SERVED, AND HAS BEEN  
A VALUED CONTACT OF SENIOR EMBASSY OFFICERS. ON MORE  
THAN ONE OCCASION HE HAS SHARED CONFIDENCES. HIS OUT-  
GOING PERSONALITY HAS ALSO MADE HIM A FAVORITE AT  
SOCIAL OCCASIONS. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND  
ENJOYS HUNTING, SKIING AND SWIMMING.  
RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE, BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 APR 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975PARIS10364  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750143-0391  
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**Line Count:** 73  
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**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <14 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** GUY DE COMMINES DE MARSILLY, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO ALGERIA  
**TAGS:** PDIP, FR, AG, (COMMUNES DE MARSILLY, GUY DE)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006